

IN RECOGNITION OF CATHERINE R. O'DONNELL, ESQ., RECIPIENT OF THE WILKES-BARRE LAW & LIBRARY ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT'S AWARD

HON. MATT CARTWRIGHT

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 7, 2015

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Catherine R. O'Donnell, Esq., who was selected for the President's Award by the Wilkes-Barre Law & Library Association. The President's Award honors attorneys who display exemplary professionalism, integrity, and ethics throughout his or her legal career. It is the highest award that the Wilkes-Barre Law & Library Association bestows.

Cathy has been practicing law for over 25 years. She graduated cum laude from the University of Pittsburgh with a joint degree in business and economics and a minor in history. In 1987, Cathy received her Juris Doctor and Master of Business degrees from the University of Pittsburgh. She is a member of the Pennsylvania and District of Columbia Bar. In addition, Cathy is a member of The American Association for Justice and the Pennsylvania Association for Justice.

In October of 2000, Governor Thomas Ridge appointed Cathy as a District Justice. Unanimously confirmed by the Pennsylvania Senate, Cathy honorably served our state until January 2002. Today, Cathy practices estate planning and administration at the O'Donnell Law Offices. Her skill and knowledge as a lawyer has earned her recognition as a Pennsylvania Super Lawyer, ALM Top-Rated Trusts and Estates Lawyer, Martindale-Hubbell's Bar Register of Preeminent Women Lawyers and Martindale-Hubbell's AV Preeminent Rating from 2002–2015. In 2015, she was named one of Rue Rating's Best Attorneys of America.

Cathy remains an active member of her local community. Cathy is a past president of the Parent's Associates of Wyoming Valley Montessori School and the Lower and Upper Schools of Wyoming Seminary. She is also a past president of the pastoral council of the former St. Therese's Church in Wilkes-Barre. She is a current member of the Orphans' Court Practice Committee and current Chair of the Religious Outreach Committee of the Wilkes-Barre Law Library Association. Cathy is a board member of Junior Leadership of Wilkes-Barre, a member of the United Way Cabinet, and a board member for Dress for Success of Luzerne County.

It is an honor to recognize Cathy O'Donnell for her many accomplishments, and I extend Cathy my congratulations for being awarded the Wilkes-Barre Law & Library Association President's Award. I commend Cathy for her service to our community.

HONORING MR. TERRANCE KELLY

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 7, 2015

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Terrance Kelly for his extraordinary con-

tributions to the music industry and to the faith community. Mr. Kelly is currently the Artistic Director of the Oakland Interfaith Gospel Choir, where he leads over 100 rehearsals and 50 performances annually.

Mr. Kelly graduated from the Texas Southern University with a Bachelor of Arts in Business Management. He went on to study at Holy Names University with a focus on Vocal Performance. Mr. Kelly began his career working with Jazz Camp West as Choir Director and Voice Teacher.

During his time with Jazz Camp West, Mr. Kelly led the popular All Camp Gospel Choir, helping select the songs, instruct the band, and lead performances. His dedication to music also led Mr. Kelly to begin working with Imani Community Church, where he is currently Minister of Magnification. Mr. Kelly coordinates all musical presentations for the church, as well as leading many different choirs. He also facilitates the Imani Ya Watume liturgical dancers.

Additionally, Mr. Kelly serves as Artistic Director of the Oakland Interfaith Gospel Choir. He has composed and arranged music for the Oakland Interfaith Gospel Choir, the Oakland Interfaith Youth Choir, and the Oakland Interfaith Community Choir. The incredible works of music he has worked on have inspired and moved audiences throughout the Bay Area, California, and the world.

In his long career in music and faith, Mr. Kelly received many honors. Most recently, Mr. Kelly taught workshops about gospel music at the International Gospel Music Academy of Denmark. His musical talent has been recognized by many influential people, such as Tramaine Hawkins, MC Hammer, John Lee Hooker, and Former President Jimmy Carter. He has received an Emmy Award for his choral arrangement of PSA for KGO-TV, as well as 2 Gospel Academy Awards for Outstanding Director of the Year and Excellence in Choral Music. The San Francisco Opera had the opportunity to work with Mr. Kelly in their rendition of Moby Dick in 2012.

Mr. Kelly has also mentored students of music, many of whom have gone on to attend schools such as the Berklee School of Music, Howard University, and Walt Disney's California Institute of the Arts. Throughout his prolific career, Mr. Kelly has impacted the lives of musicians and fans alike, throughout the Bay Area and the world.

On behalf of the residents of California's 13th Congressional District, Mr. Terrance Kelly, I salute him. I thank him for a lifetime of service and congratulate him on his many achievements. I wish him success as he continues to serve the residents of the East Bay.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RANDY NEUGEBAUER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 7, 2015

Mr. NEUGEBAUER. Mr. Speaker, I was not able to be present for a series of votes on June 2, 2015, July 10, 2015 and September 10, 2015.

Had I been present, I would have voted:

Roll Call Vote Number 268 on June 2nd, Agreeing to Rule for THUD and CJS Appropriations, I would have voted aye.

Roll Call Vote Number 269 on June 2nd, Approving the Journal, I would have voted aye.

Roll Call Vote Number 431 on July 10th, Agreeing to Brat Amendment to H.R. 6, 21st Century Cures Act, I would have voted aye.

Roll Call Vote Number 432 on July 10th, Agreeing to Lee Amendment to H.R. 6, 21st Century Cures Act, I would have voted nay.

Roll Call Vote Number 491 on September 10th, Providing for consideration of H. Res. 411, I would have voted aye.

CONGRATULATING ORATORY PREPARATORY FOR BEING NAMED A BLUE RIBBON SCHOOL BY THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

HON. LEONARD LANCE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 7, 2015

Mr. LANCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Oratory Prep School of Summit, New Jersey for being named a Blue Ribbon School by the United States Department of Education.

The National Blue Ribbon Schools award honors public and private elementary, middle and high schools where students perform at very high levels or where significant improvements are being made in students' levels of achievement. Oratory Prep was cited as an "Exemplary High Performing" school, as measured by state assessments and national tests. This recognition is a testament to the outstanding work and dedication of the faculty and staff, as well as the efforts and successes of the students in creating a safe and welcoming school where students master challenging content.

The curriculum at Oratory Prep has prepared students to attend some of the finest universities in the Nation and the extra-curricular activities, electives, leadership training and guest speakers offer students a wide array of academic experiences. Oratory Prep's athletic program continues to grow as well, both in scope and success.

This is a prestigious award to receive and Oratory Prep is a proud example of academic excellence and worthy of this national distinction.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. EVAN H. JENKINS

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 7, 2015

Mr. JENKINS of West Virginia. Mr. Speaker, on roll call no. 534, due to an in-district event announcing new funding for displaced coal miners and their families to pay for job retraining and educational opportunities, I was unable to cast my vote on this bill. Had I been present, I would have voted yea.

RECOGNIZING ARMY SGT.
WILLIAM "WILD BILL" GUARNERE

HON. PATRICK MEEHAN

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 7, 2015

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and service of Sgt. William "Wild Bill" Guarnere, who served in the 101st Airborne division of the United States Army during World War II.

Sgt. Guarnere was a Philadelphia native who enlisted in the Army in 1942. His bravery earned him the nickname "Wild Bill" for his passion and perseverance in battle. Sgt. Guarnere's first combat jump was Operation Overlord, in the early hours of the morning of June 6, 1944, hours before the first allied landing craft hit the beaches of Normandy on D-Day. A member of the famed "Band of Brothers" of the 506th Parachute Infantry Regiment's "Easy Company", Guarnere served in some of the most significant engagements of the European theater, including Operation Market Garden. Ultimately, Sgt. Guarnere's combat service ended when he lost a leg in the Battle of the Bulge. He was eventually awarded a Silver Star, two Bronze Stars, and two Purple Hearts for his bravery in the face of the enemy.

On Saturday, September 19, the Delaware County Veterans' Memorial Park will unveil a statue of "Wild Bill" Guarnere to commemorate his service and sacrifice. It's a fitting tribute to a true American hero from Pennsylvania.

Mr. Speaker, Sgt. Guarnere's admirable service displayed an extraordinary devotion to his country and his fellow soldiers. I am honored to recognize him today as one of the true heroes of our Greatest Generation.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 7, 2015

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, on January 20, 2009, the day President Obama took office, the national debt was \$10,626,877,048,913.08.

Today, it is \$18,150,568,904,537.03. We've added \$7,523,691,855,623.95 to our debt in 6 years. This is over \$7.5 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

LEADING A HALL OF FAME BUSINESS

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 7, 2015

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Alfred Froberg, Jr. of Alvin, Texas for receiving the 2015 Junior Achievement Hall of Fame award.

Mr. Froberg received this award thanks to his positive impact on the Alvin and Brazoria

County business community. He is deeply dedicated to growing and promoting businesses all across his hometown. As a member of the Junior Achievement Hall of Fame, Mr. Froberg's efforts serve as a model for other local businesses, helping them grow and succeed. Brazoria County is proud to have such an inspiring business leader.

On behalf of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, congratulations again to Alfred for being part of the Junior Achievement Hall of Fame.

HEROES MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN THE SOUTH CAROLINA FLOODING

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 7, 2015

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, the past few days have been an extraordinary catastrophe, correctly identified by Governor Nikki Haley of South Carolina as a "thousand year rain" causing flooding and damage across South Carolina. Fortunately, Hurricane Joaquin bypassed the state after causing destruction in the Bahamas but, it created a weather anomaly of record rainfall of over 20 inches and flooding. I am grateful to the National Weather Service and senior forecaster John Quagliarello, for monitoring the situation and providing early warnings for our citizens.

Six generations of my family have lived on Wilton Road in Springdale, which was washed away during the storm for the first time ever since construction in 1890. I am grateful that our home was spared major damage, though thousands were not so fortunate.

Our state officials were true leaders and handled the catastrophe impressively. When visiting the State Emergency Response Center in Pine Ridge, I thanked Governor Nikki Haley, Adjutant General Bob Livingston, and Attorney General Alan Wilson for leading the recovery, as well as South Carolina Emergency Management Division Kim Stinson. I am further grateful for the National Guard's role in aiding the relief efforts—three of my sons, Alan, Julian, and Hunter, were activated for National Guard disaster service.

I visited the world-class Lexington County Emergency Response Center, led by Director Bo Davenport, with Sheriff Jay Koon and County Administrator Joe Mergo where I thanked the dedicated personnel who saved many lives.

In between stops, I appreciated thanking Columbia Mayor Steve Benjamin for his leadership and I thanked Homeland Secretary Jeh Johnson for coming to tour the impacted areas this Friday with Congressman JIM CLYBURN and myself. Mayor Mike Miller of Wagener assured me his Aiken County community was secure.

Lexington Mayor Steve MacDougall and Town of Lexington Police Chief Terrence Green gave me a first-hand tour of multiple pond dam breaks, including the Mill Pond blocking U.S. Highway 1 of Main Street in Lexington.

I visited the Lake Katherine neighborhood with State Representative Kirkman Finlay of Columbia, where I met homeowners and vol-

unteers already planning the reconstruction of their homes. Sheriff Leon Lott had experienced deputies at critical roadways.

At the Red Cross shelter at A.C. Flora High School, I thanked the A.C. Flora Key Club and other volunteers who distributed bottled water, food, diapers, and clothes to those who had lost everything. I am grateful to Richland School District One Board Member Beatrice King and State Senator Joel Lourie for coordinating such a positive outpouring of donations from the community.

Visiting the Richland County Emergency Center, led by Columbia Deputy Fire Chief Tisdale, there were dedicated personnel thoughtfully handling calls of distress.

At the Seven Oaks Recreation Center shelter, sponsored by the Irmo-Chapin Recreation Commission, I thanked the organizers: Director Elizabeth Taylor and Park Director John Cantey. I saw first-hand how those who had to flee their homes found people who cared and supported them.

A lesson learned is that in the watersheds of multiple downstream dams, as exist in Richland and Lexington counties, there should be a coordination of lowering water levels to anticipate extraordinary rainfall to reduce the potential for sequential dam failures resulting in catastrophic loss of life and property damages.

Late yesterday, I returned to my Congressional office in West Columbia, where I found that a leak in the roof had caused the ceiling and light fixture above my desk to collapse.

Though the destruction of the 1000-year event was catastrophic, it was a testament to the people of South Carolina working together for the common good.

IN RECOGNITION OF WEHADKEE MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH'S 141ST ANNIVERSARY

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 7, 2015

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor and pleasure to extend my sincere congratulations to the congregation of Wehadkee Missionary Baptist Church in Roanoke, Alabama as they celebrate a remarkable 141 years. An anniversary celebration will be held on Sunday, October 11, 2015.

The Wehadkee Missionary Baptist Church is one of the oldest African-American churches in Randolph County, Alabama. Throughout its 141-year history, the church has been a bridge over troubled waters for the African-American community of Wehadkee-High Shoals-Springfield.

Under the name "Perhaps," the church was established in 1874, just eleven years after President Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation. The church held its first services in a very small log cabin one mile south of its current location, which is 1216 County Road 310 in Roanoke, Alabama.

Reverend Spy Flag was the founding Pastor of the church, serving from 1874 until approximately 1884. Between 1884 and 1918, ten ministers led the church: Reverend Ben Goss, Reverend Symon Vickers, Reverend Aaron Strong, Reverend Tom Almond, Reverend Charlie Steward, Reverend Spencer Beasley, Reverend A.E. Stitt, Reverend John T. Hines,